

DATE:	2021 October 4
TO:	Central Zone physicians and Site leads in Daysland, Hardisty, Killam, Lamont, Provost, St-Mary's Hospital (Camrose), Tofield, Two Hills, St-Joseph's Hospital (Vegreville), Vermilion, Viking, Wainwright
FROM:	Clinical Biochemistry, North Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Arterial Blood Gas Testing Changes

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Key Message

- Laboratory staff will be performing all respiratory testing on samples collected by Respiratory Therapists or Physicians
- Sample stability for Arterial Blood Gas will remain 60 minutes. If a respiratory sample is from ED or acute care the expected turnaround time is 15 minutes.
- Advanced communication to the lab is crucial to insuring staff is available to perform testing

Background

- Historically Respiratory Therapists and some Physicians have performed blood gas testing on lab maintained i-STAT instruments. This type of sharing is not supported in Epic, and needs to change.

How this will impact you

- Lab will need to be notified prior to collection of an arterial sample in order to ensure staff and the instrument are ready to perform the testing. Collecting clinicians will need to ensure that the sample collected is labelled in accordance with lab [sample acceptance requirements](#), or the sample may be rejected. Sample results will be expected within 15 minutes of the sample collection. It will be important to avoid all delays in delivery of the appropriately labelled sample and accompanying requisition or electronic order to the lab in order to meet this timeline.

Action Required

- **Plan to communicate** to lab prior to arterial blood gas collection. Understand and follow appropriate labelling requirements. Expect the result of arterial blood gas testing from ED or acute care to be available within 15 minutes of sample collection.

Effective

- 12 October, 2021

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

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